

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5255
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4976

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES FOR STEVENS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PDIP CI US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE: FEELER ON POSSIBLE VISIT

1. SUMMARY:THE SENIOR US DESK OFFICER IN THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OUTLINED A MINISTRY PLAN LEADING UP TO A VISIT BY UN OR OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE FORE- SAW A SERIES OF VISITS, BEGINNING WITH A SPECIAL INTER- NATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC) DELEGATION AND A STATE DEPART- MENT GROUP SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH TRAVELLED TO ARGENTINA LAST MARCH. HE WONDERED IF THE US WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA. WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD BE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A LONG CONVERSATION ON US/CHILE RELATIONS WITH NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER EUGENIO CADIZ AND HIS DEPUTY JAIME PARDO ON JUNE 13, CADIZ ASSURED EMBOFFS THAT THE GOC WAS STUDYING CAREFULLY THE SPECIFIC US CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR CAUAS MAY 26. CADIZ THEN ASKED HOW THE USG WOULD VIEW VISITS TO CHILE BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS. EMBOFFS SAID THE US POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED: WE BELIEVE CHILE SHOULD RECEIVE INTER- CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL GROUPS.

3. CADIZ THEN WENT ON TO PORTRAY A SERIES OF VISITS BEGINNING WITH THE ICRC AND, PERHAPS, MR DERIAN. THE MINISTRY KNEW THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM SUCH VISITORS WOULD NOT BE COMPLETELY POSITIVE BUT THOUGHT AN OBJEC- TIVE STATEMENT WOULD RECOGNIZE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE.

DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF THESE VISITS, THE MINISTRY WOULD THEN URGE ON THE JUNTA VISITS BY THE IAHRC AND, EVENTUALLY, THE UNHRC.

4. CADIZ GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT APPROVAL HAD BEEN OBTAINED TO MAKE APPROACHES TO THE ICRC. WE ASSUMED THAT THIS CAREFUL PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT HAD AUTHORIZATION TO FLOAT THE PROPOSAL WITH US. AS CADIZ RECALLED THE CHRONOLOGY IN ARGENTINA, AFTER MS DERIAN'S GROUP HAD BEGGED OFF THE LAST MINUTE CHILEAN INVITATION, THE GOC HAD GIVEN HER AN OPEN ENDED RAINCHECK. CADIZ WONDERED IF IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOC TO "REMIND" THE DEPARTMENT THAT CHILE WOULD WELCOME HER VISIT. THE GOC WOULD NOT LIKE TO MAKE A FOLLOW UP APPROACH TO THE DEPARTMENT UNLESS MS DERIAN WAS PREPARED TO COME. HE THOUGHT THAT SHOULD THE ATMOSPHERE BE FAVORABLE IN WASHINGTON, THE VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

5. EMBOFFS WERE GENERALLY POSITIVE AND OBSERVED THAT VISITS BY RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL BODIES WOULD BE A PROGRESSIVE STEP. CADIZ KNEW THAT HIS CONVERSATION WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON AND UNDERSTOOD WHEN EMBOFFS WERE NONCOMMITAL ON SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WITH RESPECT TO DERIAN.

6. COMMENT: DERIAN AND ICRC VISITS WOULD NOT BE A SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR IAHRC OR UNHRC BUT WOULD CLEARLY BE USEFUL. IF HER SCHEDULE PERMITS AND IF A CONFIDENTIAL

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DERIAN TRIP WOULD MESH WITH BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE BE INSTRUCTED TO TELL CADIZ MS DERIAN WOULD BE PLEASED TO VISIT CHILE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT IF GOC THEN ACTUALLY FOLLOWS THROUGH. BOYATT

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